



November 15, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room #8B-201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Free Broadband Access

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Internet has been one of the greatest inventions of our generation. I can email a friend who lives in China, read about the latest news in Germany, ship a package to Australia, all while listening to music from South America without ever leaving my computer desk. I, for one, cannot believe the many uses we have found for the Internet, and the list continues to grow.

With an evolving interdependence on the Internet, you can now find news, government services, and other essential information online. There is, however, one huge drawback: lack of accessibility. Currently, millions of Americans have dial-up internet connections. These connections are very slow and usually timeout while users are trying to access a webpage, especially if that page has many pictures or other graphics. The necessary solution is broadband.

Currently, a little over 40% of American homes have broadband. That means that almost 60% are unable to access important government services, get important news updates, and participate in much needed civic discourse. It is unacceptable that the majority of Americans do not have access to these resources.

As an entrepreneur in the Law Enforcement and First Responder Data Interoperability field, especially in rural parts of the United States, I have seen the benefits that broadband access can bring immediately providing needed capabilities. It is time now to allow others the opportunity afforded through a free internet access program. I appreciate your consideration of this effort and respectfully request your action to ensure the opportunity.

Best regards,

Joe Powell
President
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CC: Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Tate
Commissioner McDowell
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau
U.S. Senator Lott
U.S. Senator Cochran
U.S. Representative Pickering